



Shadow Lake Association  
P.O. Box 135  
Glover, VT 05839

April 4, 2017  
Testimony for bill S.75

Good Morning,

My name is Jenifer Andrews. I am here to support and encourage you to pass bill S.75. This is my first trip to Montpelier to participate in a formal hearing. This bill is of such importance that I have taken an unpaid half day from work to address you.

I am a retired teacher (who participated in the Buck Lake Camp week for educators), a current teaching assistant, the current president of Shadow Lake Association, a Boat Wash Coordinator, a trained Greeter at the BW, a grant writer for the BW, a lifetime water enthusiast, a concerned citizen and, my most proud accomplishment; a mother of two grown men- one a forester and one a farmer.

There are two very important ideas that I would like to comment on. The first is a **mandatory inspection**.

As you may know, Eurasian Milfoil and other Aquatic Invasive Species are easily transportable. The two effective ways known to hinder this transport is **a.** visual inspection and **b.** a hot water, pressurized boat wash if the boat and/or vehicle is deemed high risk for AIS by the ANR trained Greeters. There are many studies that report on this but the one closest to home is out of Paul Smith's College in conjunction with the Lake Champlain Basin Program and the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program called "Boat Inspection and Decontamination for Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention" done in 2014. It cites that "decontamination involves high-pressure, hot water spraying, which removes and often kills AIS." Many Lake Association Boat Washes

have trained personnel to greet, inspect and wash all vehicles and watercraft that enter and exit our lakes, ponds and rivers. At Shadow Lake, we are going into our fourteenth year. Boat Wash Greeters not only wash boats and ask boaters to flush boat wells, they educate the public about invasives. This information provides boaters with a better understanding of the crucial nature of the work to prevent transport of AIS. After all, any lake association that is dealing with an infestation and all the pressures to contain it, surely does not wish to contaminate another waterbody.

Milfoil and other AIS are rapidly growing/reproducing species. Once in a waterbody, they are likely never to be eradicated. Water quality is diminished, property values go down, and towns that depend on the income from second home owners and tourists see less money coming in for important town programs and improvements. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

**+Therefore, it must be MANDATORY that all vehicles towing and the watercraft itself MUST be inspected and/or washed if a trained Greeter deems the need. It is a privilege to own a boat and along with that privilege goes responsibility. INSPECT and WASH YOUR BOAT.**

The second idea I would like to comment on is **the immediacy of the use of matting.**

I have worked on the water paddling in my kayak to make observations around the shoreline of Shadow Lake to check for milfoil growth. I have worked on the water as boat support for a scuba diver as he searches the shoreline and deeper water for milfoil. And, I have worked in the water, after being trained, with a snorkel, mask and net bag identifying, marking and pulling milfoil. When found, the correct removal of milfoil is an urgent matter.

Let me repeat that. IT IS AN URGENT MATTER. Just one small piece of milfoil- this big(one inch)-can begin to infest a lake.

1. Anglers hate it because it tangles lines and lures but most of all it robs fish of vital habitat.

2. Swimmers hate it because it can get long and leggy and interfere with swimming.
3. Boaters hate it because it entangles both oars and outboards.
4. Sailors hate it because rudders and centerboards get tangled and, heaven forbid, if you capsize- it entangles your lines, your mast and your boom.

When milfoil is discovered and identified, it must be pulled and matted immediately to discourage regrowth. No hemming, no hawing, no delay. Lake associations have the ability to act fast because they are the people who have been designated to care for the lake by the people who live on/around the lake. After the immediate stop gap of pulling and laying small 14x14 mats, working within the stipulated guidelines of the bill, the DEC would have the opportunity to inspect the mat placement. The DEC, as stated in the bill, would remove the mat/s if a rare and/or endangered species were being affected.

\*Can re-growth occur after hand pulling? Absolutely, as Shadow found out. Can re-growth occur after pulling and quickly installing small matting? It's possible, but not nearly as probable because the mat suffocates the roots.

\*Is there collateral damage to clams, snails and other small aquatic life? Yes, some. However, those types of organisms are mobile and can seek better opportunities elsewhere in the lake.

**+Small mats that can be installed quickly and that are inspectable by the DEC, should be allowed** as we strive to protect waterbodies that contribute to the enjoyment of both Vermonters and the tourism that our state depends on.

In closing, the Agency of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Conservation play an important role in the

stewardship of Vermont's lakes and ponds. The similar nature of ANR, DEC and lake association's missions allow us to continue to work in concert with each protecting the waters of Vermont.

Thank you for your attention and interest in our beloved state,  
Jenifer Andrews

President; Shadow Lake Association- a member supported non-profit  
501c3 Tax exempt organization dedicated to the management of the long-term health of  
the lake

A founding member of FOVLAP